

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHODS

~~The present invention includes methods~~, an apparatus and a system in which reclosable bags and components thereof are formed. The reclosable bags are made from base web material that has transversely applied fastener tape segments thereon. The web material is used in a vertical form, fill and seal bag forming method. The method includes the steps of supplying across the web a continuous strip of tape, having male and female fastener profiles thereon, for sealing thereto. In one embodiment a continuous strip of barrier material, and a continuous strip of fastener having first and second interlocked fastener profile strips are positioned on the continuous strip of tape; and secured thereon, the barrier tape is folded to obtain a fold and two opposing barrier tape fastener strip connecting portions; and, the fold is slit to form two separate continuous strips of barrier material strips and two continuous strips of tape. In another embodiment a coating is applied to the tape itself to prevent sealing of the folded slit tape to itself. The resulting tape and fastener are cut and positioned properly on the web by the unique vacuum belt system ~~of the present invention~~, by the interconnected tape drive, web drive and by being coordinated with the form fill seal machine.